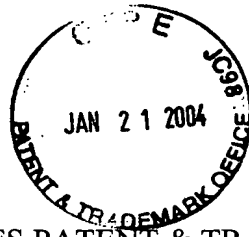


DOCKET NO: 230112US26



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
TOMOYO YAMAGUCHI, ET AL. : EXAMINER:  
SERIAL NO: 10/607,537 :  
FILED: JUNE 27, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT:  
FOR: PLASMA PROCESSING METHOD :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to an action on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 26 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 27 of this paper.